

From: Jeffrey Melton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 1:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply alarmed by the terms of the current settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. I feel there are serious flaws which further Microsoft's monopoly power and even reward them for their anti-competitive practices. Microsoft was found guilty and should make amends to the customers and companies they abused.

In particular, Microsoft's offer to donate more \$1 billion in software, services, training and refurbished computers to poor schools around the country will actually further their reach into a market they don't yet dominate. Rather than serve as a punishment for them, this 'gift' would grow their market share, squeeze out other companies such as Apple (which has given a lot to the educational sector), and increase the overall dependence on Microsoft products -- all at the expense of citizens.

Microsoft has essentially guaranteed itself that much in sales in free advertising with this offer. Also, the cost to Microsoft wouldn't total nearly \$1 billion in brand new, quality software and services.

Instead, I recommend that \$1 billion cash be used to create an endowment fund, administered by a non-profit, public foundation which would distribute that money to schools and organizations to use on alternative computer operating systems and services -- specifically NOT Microsoft's. The foundation could also invest a portion of that money to sustain the program for perpetuity and undo Microsoft's domination which they seek to sustain.

Also, the terms of the settlement don't go far enough to protect customers and companies of non-profit products such as Linux which don't get the same treatment and protection as for-profit companies. Thank You,

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